

Stream Team Annual Report

A Summary of Stream Team Activities



Tammy Thurman (Piedmont) and Rich Blatz (MDC Forestry District Supervisor) map litter pickup assignments for Stream Team volunteers at the McKenzie Creek beautification event on May 4, 2002. Stream Team Coordinator Mark Van Patten said he was amazed at the hundreds of volunteers who turned out for the annual cleanup at Piedmont.

Missouri Stream Team . . . promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation.



♦ Education ♦ Stewardship ♦ Advocacy ♦

2002

3000

Stream Team passed another milestone this year by hitting 2000 Teams! We celebrated with special activities throughout the month of June, but we didn't stay there long -- we kept movin' right on to Team 2128! That means an estimated 42,560 individuals throughout the state hold Missouri streams in very high regard. These citizens appreciate the sound of flowing water; the feel of a cool, clear spring-fed creek on a hot summer day; and the water quality most of us have always taken for granted. These thousands of individuals are very different, but all tied together by one common thread . . . streams! To these individuals, our streams are worth their time, effort, and energy. Their accomplishments are what the Stream Team Program is all about.

During 2002, participation was reported in 27 different types of activities. Volunteer efforts totaled 104,008 hours of service. This is our first year to exceed 100,000 hours! The program now boasts a grand total of over 485,500 accumulated volunteer hours in the last 6 years since we began keeping detailed records.

This year's accomplishments include removing nearly 600 tons of trash, adopting 16 accesses, completing 240 educational projects, and writing over 2,300 letters.

These are some of the year's other highlights:

- ♦ Four large-scale cleanups throughout the state (including two on the Missouri River)
- ♦ A record 593 tons of trash removed
- ♦ First distance-learning academy held: Stream Team *Advocacy*
- ♦ *Understanding Streams* workshop held with 20 attendees
- ♦ Education forums held with over 1200 FFA students
- ♦ Missouri made an impact on National Monitoring Day, nearly 100 sites sampled
- ♦ *Channels* newsletter won award recognition

Please continue reading and share with us in celebrating our 2002 accomplishments.

Stream Team Leadership

WATER QUALITY MONITORS SET THE PACE

Since Stream Teams began monitoring water quality nearly 10 years ago, it has been one of our most popular activities. Citizens are looking for ways to contribute to improving stream resources. By collecting water quality data, they can do that, and these efforts do not go unnoticed! Our volunteer data continues to be used by MDC, DNR, other agencies, municipalities, etc., as baseline data on many streams.

During 2002 we trained 343 members. Missouri has now trained a total of 2,837 citizens in water quality monitoring. Over 1,300 water quality samples were taken at 707 locations.

This year a total of 25 workshops were held: twelve Introductory classes, six Level 1s, three Level 2s, and four Level 3s. These levels of training provide volunteers with an increasingly competent level of sampling expertise. Some of our seasoned monitors continue to assist with teaching our workshops. It's great for new volunteers to see the experience of those around them.

We continue to update our educational and instructional materials and take pride in the fact that we are well respected among other states for these materials.

CLEAN WATER ACT TURNS 30

October 18, 2002 was National Monitoring Day in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act. By encouraging monitors throughout the nation to sample on the same day, it provided a "snapshot" of water quality for the nation's waters. It was also a way to bring attention to water quality monitoring, our aquatic resources, and improved water quality as a result of the Clean Water Act. Missourians came through strong with 93 sites sampled. You can review the data by accessing the website at www.yearofcleanwater.org.

TEAMS TAKE ON ACCESSES

The Adopt-An-Access activity debuted in 2001, and 2002 was a great followup. This activity gives groups the opportunity to adopt stream and lake accesses. They sign an agreement with the area manager and regularly perform tasks that may include trash pickup, mowing, or area beautification. Sixteen groups adopted accesses this year. The cooperation and coordination between Teams and MDC regional staff have been very positive.

NEW TEAMS LEARN FROM OLD

One of our newest activities, Stream Team mentoring, continued to be popular during 2002. Over 80 participants reported taking part in a mentoring experience. This is an activity that can help a new Stream Team get their feet wet (literally!) and help them meet other Teams in their area. A mentor is someone who takes a special interest in helping another person or group develop successfully by providing them with guidance and support. Mentors become two things: advisors willing to share their knowledge, and supporters who give emotional and moral encouragement. We plan to pair up more mentors with newcomers in 2003! Are you willing to help? Let us know.

STREAM TEAM ACADEMY OFFERS MORE

During 2002, two workshops in addition to water quality monitoring were offered through the Stream Team Academy. The first was our initial experience with distance learning. Stream Team Advocacy was taught at four sites simultaneously with two-way communication. Missouri Army National Guard facilities were used, providing us a chance to train more participants throughout the state in one day. Attendees were led through



Shown above are a few of the 2002 Stream Team Award winners honored at the Meramec Watershed picnic. From left: John Anderson & Vannessa Frazier (Team 1617), Charles Laun (Team 523), Larry & Amy Cain (Team 1008), John England (Team 1421), and Missouri Department of Conservation Director John Hoskins. Also winning awards but not pictured are Jim Benz (Team 1212) and Vicki Richmond (Team 175).

Stream Team Progress

sessions about local, state, and federal government by several speakers. Denny Ballard, Conservation Federation of Missouri, closed the workshop by offering advice on how to communicate and get your message across. The workshop was a success.

Also during 2002, an *Understanding Streams* workshop was held. This course is modeled after a technical stream course taught to biologists and resource professionals. Teams have the chance to learn about streams, their primary components, and interconnected watersheds. Graduates will testify that they leave looking at streams and watersheds in a whole new light.

NEWSLETTER EARNS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

Stream Team staff have worked hard to make *Channels*, a newsletter for and about Stream Teams, top notch. This year the hard work was recognized through two MDC awards in the Media Recognition Contest. The overall newsletter received First Place in the newsletter category. One of the front page articles, *Streams For Life*, by Sherry Fischer, also received a First Place award in the newsletter article category. Congratulations Team staff and contributors for your hard work at reaching out in an educational and entertaining way to Teams around the state!

TEAMS WIN AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

As much as Teams accomplish every year, it gets more and more challenging to choose award winners. 2002 was no exception, but those who came out on top were:

Stream Team Adult Category:

Awareness: Show-Me Clean Streams, Team 523

Leadership: Twin River Rangers, Team 1008

Stewardship: Friends of Lakeside Nature Center, Team 175

Stream Team Youth Category:

Awareness: Turner Stream Team, Team 1212

Leadership: Howardville Jumpstart, Team 1617

Stewardship: Farmington Middle School, Team 1421

Springfield area Stream Team Awards for National Monitoring Day:

Most Monitoring Samples: Christian County Health Department, Team 701

Most Monitoring Locations: Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, Team 1395

Most Years Sampled: Jeanelle Wiley's Crane Elementary and High School Classes, Team 263

Stream Teams were also recognized by outside groups, including:

The Open Space Council River Stewardship Award:

Larry Cain, Team 1008; and Bob and Louise Hayden, Team 1857

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Citizen's Award: Melody Torrey, Team 714; and Jim Davis, Team 523

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Letter of Recognition: Vicki Richmond, Teams 175 and 1878

STREAM TEAM CONTINUES TO MAKE WAVES

Over the last several years our staff has worked with biologists from neighboring states to share ideas, and in many cases, help them get similar programs off the ground. 2002 was no exception to this. This year a helping hand was given to *Clear River Advocates* in Texas; a monitoring group in New Jersey; a group training event in the San Carlos Apache Nation in Arizona, and Nebraska's *Adopt-A-Stream* program. Also in 2002, Missouri was visited by one of Australia's *Water Watch* coordinators to learn more about our successes in working with volunteers and community partnerships. This was a positive experience, and Missouri was complimented in the Australian final report.

STASH YOUR TRASH PROVES ITS WORTH

Stream Team continues to sponsor *Stash Your Trash*. This program provides mesh trash bags to float outfitters throughout the state. In 2002, over 206,000 bags were provided to 120 liveries. Many of these bags are used multiple times in one season. With that in mind, these bags helped to remove an estimated 1,030 tons of trash from float streams. Many floaters, who would have otherwise tossed their trash aside, disposed of it properly because of these mesh bags. Let's keep it up!



Mayor Gaylon Watson of Piedmont proudly displayed "before, during, and after" photos of McKenzie Creek.

Stream Team Future

ACTIVITY PRIZES SHOW APPRECIATION

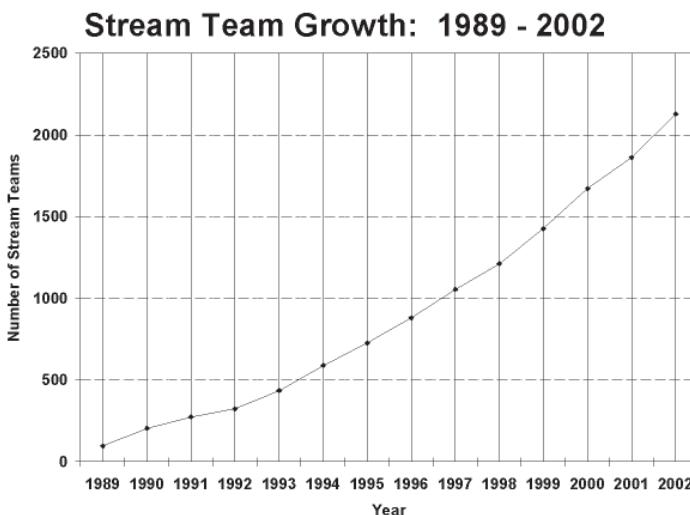
The Activity Prize Incentive Drawing program continued throughout 2002 and made happy Teamers out of 32 winners. Special prizes were also given to several winners during our Stream Team 2000 celebration focus month in June. Volunteers had the chance to win canoes, outdoor equipment, jewelry, clothing, and much more. This process continues to provide satisfying opportunities for Team volunteers to win cool prizes while limiting the funding necessary for rewards.

STREAM TEAM SHOPPING MALL OPENS

A new web-based shopping opportunity called E-Commerce will help us raise funds to buy more trash bags, water quality monitoring equipment, work gloves, first-aid kits, and incentives for Team members. The "Shopping Mall" is accessed through the Stream Team homepage at www.mostreamteam.org. Then, simply click on the store of your choice. If you make a purchase, a percentage of the sale comes directly to the Stream Team program. There is no additional cost for the customer, just benefits for Stream Teams. There are many stores available; if you haven't checked it out yet, now is the time!

WHAT'S AROUND THE BEND?

Stream Teams continue to sign up in leaps and bounds. The growth of the program has not slowed down and we don't anticipate a change during 2003. Before we know it we'll be celebrating 3000 Teams!



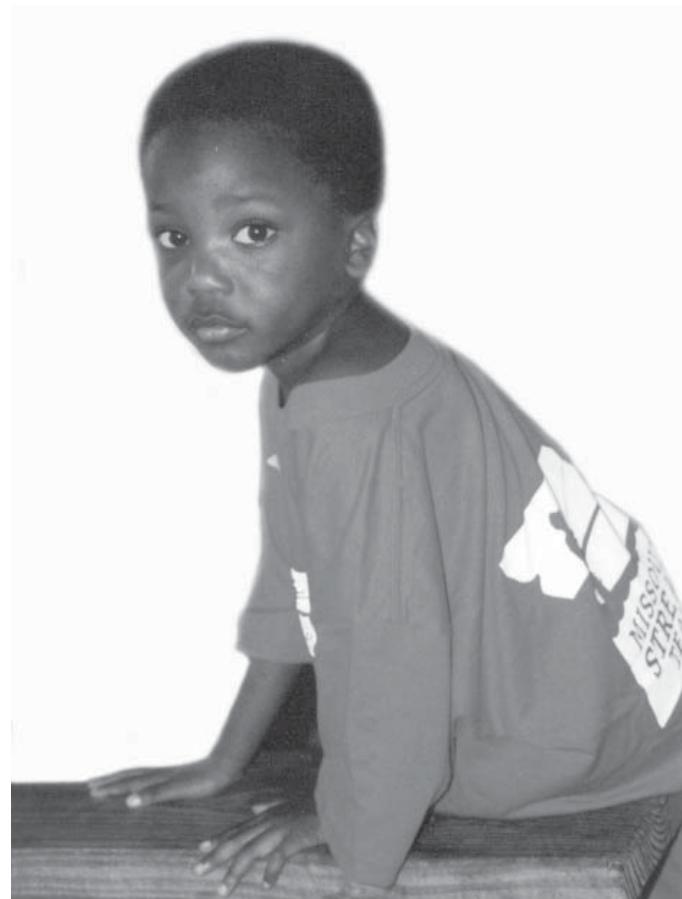
During 2003 the Stream Team Academy will offer its first Herpetology workshop at the Jerry J. Presley Conservation Education Center. Herpetologist Jeff Briggler will lead the

workshop. Also during 2003, MDC's Stream Unit will sponsor its first *Agriculture Institute* for Agriculture teachers through the University of Missouri's continuing education program. This 4-day workshop will cover the curriculum of an *Understanding Streams* and a Water Quality Introductory workshop combined.

During the last few years we have investigated several options for outside supplemental funding. This search will continue since the program continues to grow and state budgets continue to be limited. Corporate sponsors, donations, and grant opportunities may hold realistic possibilities for our future. Stream Teams can also help out by doing their online shopping from the Stream Team Shopping Mall.

Teams always seem to come up with new projects and avenues to improve local streams. Team staff participate and offer advice and assistance in these endeavors. There doesn't seem to be any limit to our volunteers' imaginations!

The attached pages summarize more 2002 accomplishments. Total numbers in the report are based on activities reported, although we know that actual contributions are much greater. Phone surveys and comparisons between "known data" and "reported data" indicate that only a fraction of Stream Team activities are reported.



The future of Missouri Stream Team rests in the hands of the children we touch.

Stream Team Activity Totals 2002

Stream Team Activity Totals - 2002

These totals are based on activity reports submitted by Stream Teams.

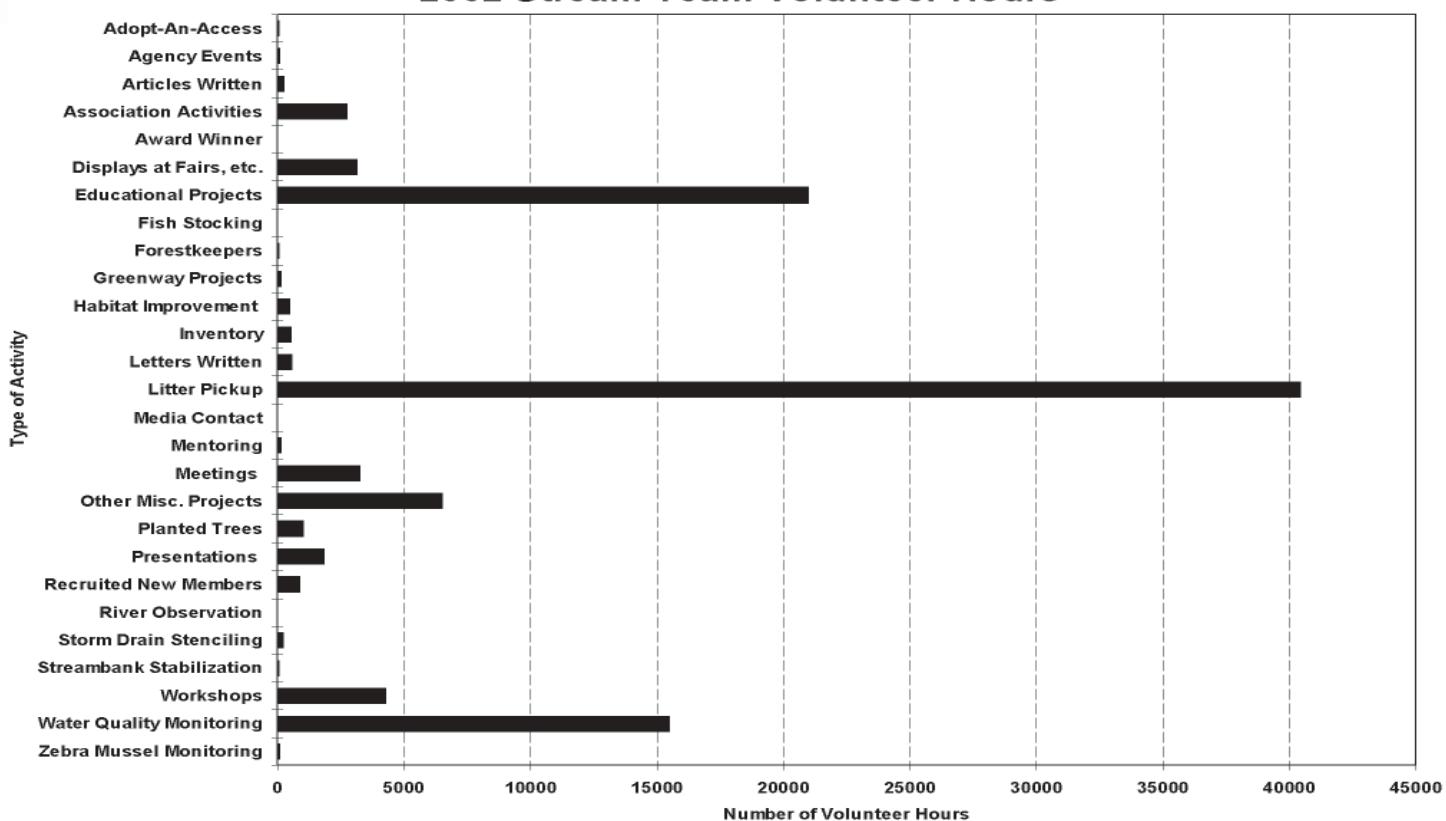
Activity	Participants	Time Spent (volunteer hours)	Number of Units	Value (x \$16.54*)
Adopt-An-Access	16	61	16 accesses	\$1,008.94
Agency Events	52	104	2 events	\$1,720.16
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	153	269.2	90 articles	\$4,452.57
Association Activities	279	2,746	2,746 hours	\$45,418.84
Award winner	12	27	12 awards	\$446.58
Display at fairs, etc.	2,354	3,146	48 events	\$52,034.84
Educational Projects	4,880	21,006.8	240 events	\$347,452.47
Fish Stocking	4	24	1 event	\$396.96
Forestkeepers - forest monitoring	68	63	10 trips	\$1,042.02
Greenway development projects	63	135	43 projects	\$2,232.90
Habitat Improvement	86	484	10 projects	\$8,005.36
Inventory	186	529	36 inventories	\$8,749.66
Letters written in support of ST issue	150	573.8	2,391 letters	\$9,490.65
Litter Pickup	9,542	40,440.8	593.2 tons of trash	\$668,890.83
Media Contacts	33	35	22 interviews	\$578.90
Mentoring	82	123	45 volunteer	\$2,034.42
Meetings (held or attended)	2,091	3,285	2,099 attendees	\$54,333.90
Other miscellaneous projects**	1,912	6,513.6	96 projects	\$107,734.94
Planted Trees	275	1,026	9,220 trees	\$16,970.04
Presentations to other groups	529	1,816.4	52 presentations	\$30,043.26
Recruited new members	354	877.2	403 people	\$14,508.89
River Observation (observations related to possible pollution events)	11	42.3	13.3 hours	\$699.64
Storm Drain Stenciling	134	210.5	131drains	\$3,481.67
Streambank Stabilization Projects	8	62	3 events	\$1,025.48
Workshop (attended or conducted)	575	4,256	718 attendees	\$70,394.24
Water Quality Monitoring	6,391	15,496.6	1,465 trips	\$256,313.76
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	17	84	3 trips	\$1,389.36
Totals	30,257	103,427.1	—	\$1,710,684.23

* \$16.54/hour is the current national non-agricultural wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time. This figure is provided annually courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor.

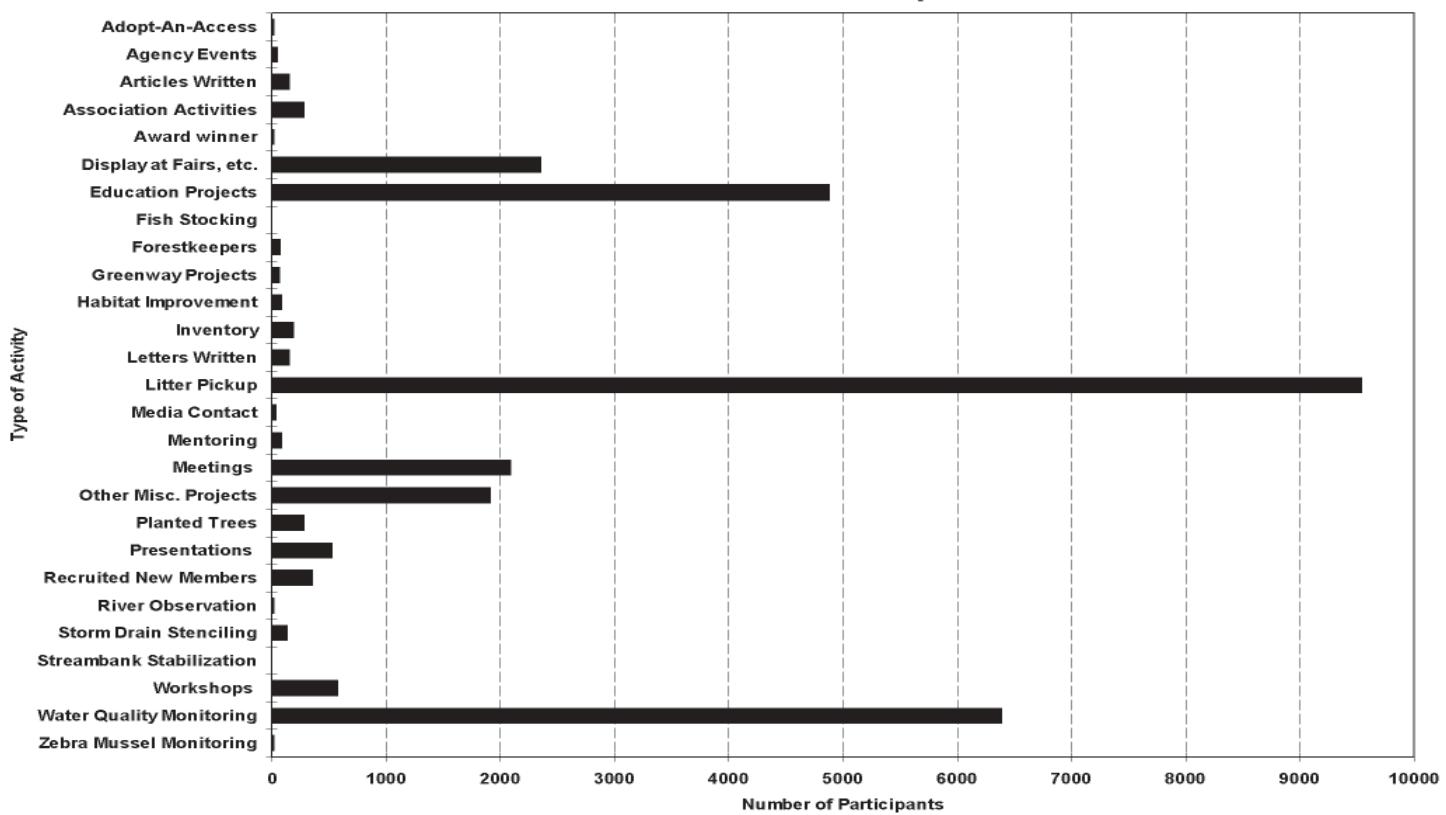
** Includes projects like web site development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising projects, etc.

Stream Team Activity Charts 2002

2002 Stream Team Volunteer Hours

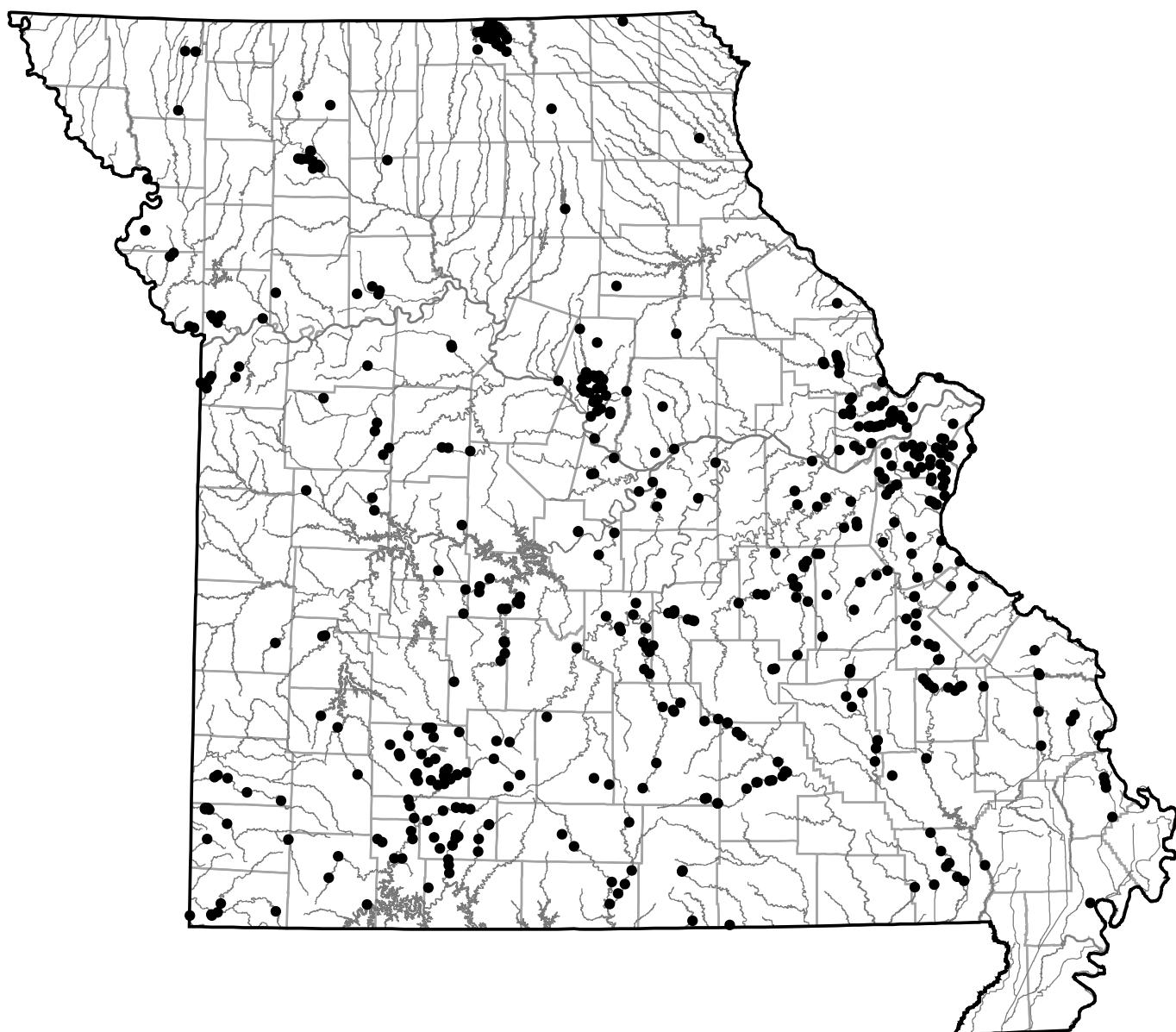


2002 Stream Team Participants



Stream Team Activity Sites 2002

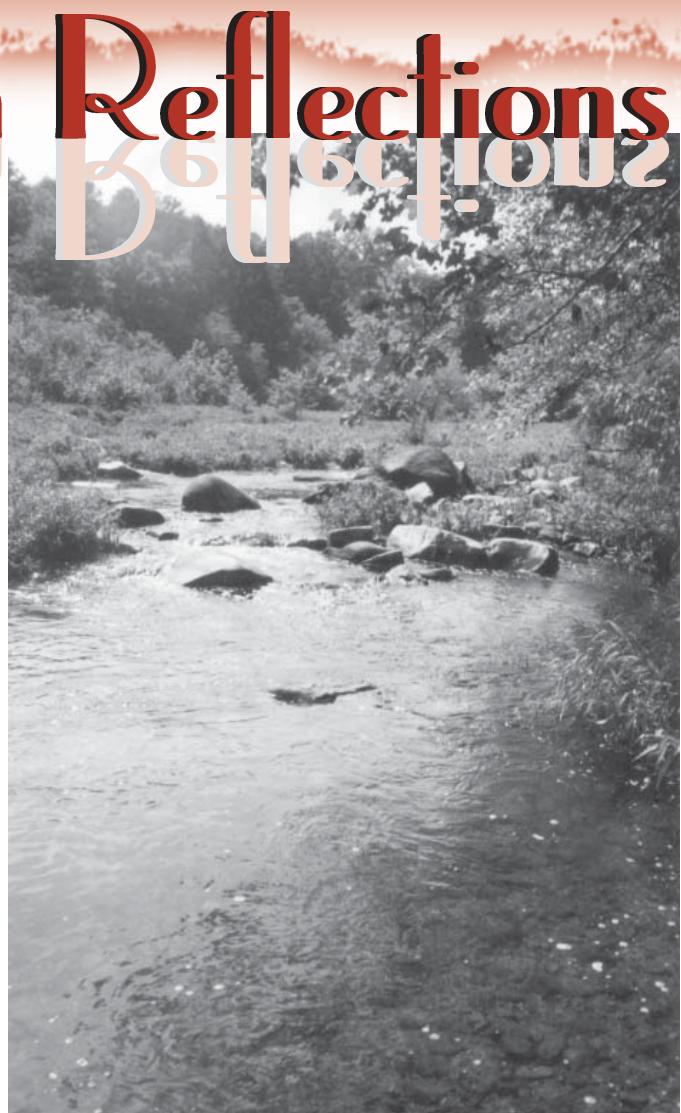
This map indicates sites where reported activities have occurred in 2002. Some activity sites are not mapped because we do not have detailed site information, and many activities are not site-specific.



Stream Team Reflections 2002



Webb City Senior High Biology students (Stream Teams 1010 and 1011, led by teacher Wayne Smith) organized a large storm drain stenciling and community education project in 2002. More than 50 storm drains were stenciled.



What a beautiful view of the St. Francis River (above) in Madison County! Joseph Santori and B.J. and Carla Browning (Team 95) monitor water quality at this site near the Millstream Gardens area.

The City of Wentzville Water Reclamation Center (Team 1062) continued its stewardship of McCoy Creek in St. Charles County in 2002. In addition to a major litter pickup last August (right), their streambank stabilization projects are also showing excellent results.



♦ Dedication ♦ Teamwork ♦ Pride ♦

On National Water Quality Monitoring Day last October, Priscilla Stotts (DNR Stream Team Coordinator) assisted Stream Team 211 with macroinvertebrate sampling (right). They identified a good selection of invertebrates on the Meramec near Arnold.



Last June, students from South Harrison High School (Stream Team 1690) attended an Introductory Water Quality Monitoring workshop with their teacher, Denise Wagner. Part of the training included hands-on sampling (above) at a site on the Platte River near St. Joseph.



Elizabeth Petersen's students at Ladue Middle School (Team 95) always do an excellent job of monitoring Deer Creek (above) in St. Louis County. We love seeing youngsters excited about stream science . . . they are our future conservationists!

Last August, Stream Team 1636 (City of St. Peters) partnered with the Greenway Network, St. Charles County, Cottleville, Dardenne Prairie, and O'Fallon to establish the First Annual Dardenne Operation Clean Stream. "Junque Barge Number One" (left) certainly collected its fair share of trash!

♦ Friendship ♦ Work ♦ Success ♦

Last October, students from Gallatin High School's Stream Team 697 (below) were selected to represent Missouri at the Youth Watershed Summit in Maryland. A special "thank you" goes to teacher Dennis Steigerwalt and Gallatin High School for their overwhelming support of Stream Team activities at their school.



Operation Clean Stream 2002 (above) was another roaring success! Activity Reports submitted from multiple Stream Teams covering the Bourbeuse, Big, Dardenne, and Meramec totaled an estimated 141.36 tons of trash collected. It's no surprise Teams had to organize heavy equipment assistance!

Ron and Ann Phelps spent an entire week last June collecting thousands of pieces of broken glass from the Grand Falls area (right) of Shoal Creek in Newton County. Great job Team 48, and thank you for your dedication and effort in tackling such a difficult chore!



Arnold Stream Team 211 members (above) alway seem to find the most unusual trash at their litter pickups. And they're never afraid to get a little dirty!



♦ Spirit ♦ Education ♦ Fun ♦



Have you ever seen a happier father and daughter than this pair (left)? Activity Prize winner Jenna Portillo (Arnold Team 211) brought her dad along on a guided fishing trip provided last June by Stream Team's Incentive Prize Drawing program. Steve Eder, MDC Fisheries Division Unit Chief, volunteered his time as guide to help reward Stream Teams and show appreciation for their many hours of volunteer activities benefitting our streams.



Donna Menown, DNR Stream Team Coordinator, (above) taught macro-invertebrate identification at several of the twelve Introductory Water Quality Monitoring Workshops held in 2002. These samples were taken from Beaver Creek near Rolla last June.



Hundreds of Future Farmers of America (right) learned about watershed conservation while playing "Who Wants To Be a Stream Team Millionaire?" last summer at FFA Camp. Stream Team staff can teach, beat the heat, and still keep teenagers laughing . . . awesome!



Stream Team Staff 2002

*Thank you, Stream Teams,
for another year of hard work and dedication.
Don't forget, we are here to help!*



Front row: Priscilla Stotts (DNR), Carol Krieger (MDC), Chris Riggert (MDC), Sherry Fischer (MDC)

Middle row: Mary Utrecht (MDC), Angie Williams (DNR), Mike Irwin (DNR), Donna Menown (DNR)

Back row: Mark Van Patten (MDC), Tim Rielly (MDC), Paul Calvert (MDC)

Not pictured: Bob Schulz (MDC), Sharon Clifford (DNR)

Stream Team is sponsored by
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

